

Wetland Mitigation Area B

Mitigation Area B is located between the Alapocas Run Site (7NC-B-13/N-10941) and Alapocas Run on the north side of Rockland Road (see Figure 9). This survey area begins at the edge of a terrace on which the Alapocas Run Site had been discovered and encompasses a slope and the floodplain lying between the site and the creek. The Alapocas Run Site had been defined from a walkover survey as representing a 100 by 150 foot light density quartz lithic scatter occupying the top of a small knoll overlooking Alapocas Run (Taylor et al. 1989:268). Artifacts collected included 12 quartz flakes, seven quartz chunks and one chert flake; no diagnostic artifacts were recovered. To the north of the project limits, the knoll slopes into an area that is currently wetland. The Concord Pike Site (7NC-B-12/N-10940) lies north of the current project area; previous investigations had produced a Kirk Corner Notched point, a core fragment and a flake, all of quartzite, as well as an untyped point, an early stage biface, a core, a drill, a scraper, six chunks and ten flakes, all of quartz (ibid:327).

At the time of this survey, Area B had been plowed and surface visibility was good (Figure 14). A walkover survey was conducted from the edge of the terrace down to the floodplain; 11 transects 25 feet apart were completed (see Figure 9). The 62 prehistoric artifacts recovered included one Bare Island point base, a biface fragment and a core of quartz (Figure 15). Quartz was the most frequent lithic material found (52 pieces, or 84%), with lesser amounts of quartzite (n=8), hornfels (n=1), a chert point fragment, and an unidentified metamorphic rock (n=6) represented. Lines A-F, closer to the road, produced more artifacts than those further north. Although a few artifacts were collected from all parts of the Wetland Mitigation area, the primary concentration was along the edge of the terrace adjacent to the Alapocas Run Site.

The prehistoric artifacts are considered to be part of the Alapocas Run Site. The current project area is on a slope, while the main part of the site is on the level terrace to the west, outside of the projected impact area. It is likely that the Alapocas Run Site boundaries extend beyond those recorded and cover the entire terrace, as surface scatter was recovered from all along its edge.

Two test units (TUs 12 and 13) and a test pit (STP 57) were excavated. TU 12 was excavated toward the southern edge of the terrace in a location where a concentration of quartz artifacts had been recovered in the surface collection. The unit yielded one quartz flake and a quartz chunk. TU 13 was excavated at the northern edge of the knoll closer to the wetland and creek, where a Bare Island point was found during the walkover. Three post-1864 windowpane fragments and the distal end of a chert point were recovered from the unit. Both of these units had soil profiles consisting of an Ap horizon overlying subsoil. STP 57 was excavated closer to the creek in order to look for buried soil horizons. No features or buried soil horizons were encountered, and no artifacts were recovered. All three units exhibited a one half to one foot Ap horizon overlying the B horizon. The Ap horizon was a brown to yellowish brown [10YR 5/3-5/4] silty loam and the B horizon, a yellowish brown to brownish yellow [10YR 5/6-6/6] silty clay.

An artifact scatter of 33 pieces of historic and modern materials was also collected in the walkover survey. Materials included whiteware (1820-1900+), ironstone (1840-1900+), historic and modern bottle glass, a brass door key, redware, post-1864 windowpane fragments, oyster shell and salt water mussel shell fragments, a slate fragment, coal and brick fragments. Most of these materials came from the portion of the area closest to the road. The historic materials were not considered to represent a concentration, but are attributed to secondary field scatter and roadside littering.

All artifacts were recovered from the plow zone on the terrace slope. No buried surfaces were encountered and no further work is recommended for the part of the site within the wetland mitigation area. After the 1989 study of the site, no further work had been recommended for the site itself (Taylor et al. 1989:270). It is recommended that the portion of the site on the level terrace top be fenced off during any construction activities that might take place on the slope below.



FIGURE 14

Looking South Across Rockland Road at Wetland Mitigation Area B, in the Vicinity of Alapocus Run; the Alapocus Run Site [7NC-B-13] is on the Terrace Visible in the Background to the Right of the Road



FIGURE 15
Quartz Core, Biface, Bare Island Projectile Point and Biface
Fragment